



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Atsushi ITO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3729

Application No.: 09/977,956

Examiner: A. Tugbang

Filed: October 17, 2001

Docket No.: 110653

For: STRUCTURE AND METHOD FOR LAMINATING AND FIXING THIN PLATE
PARTS AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING INK-JET PRINTER HEAD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the April 20, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect
Group II, claims 7-13, with traverse.

Claims 1-6 are directed to a method for laminating a plurality of thin plate parts and
claims 14-20 are directed to a method for laminating a product from thin plate parts. Claims
7-13 include forming a plurality of different type plates. Thus, it is respectfully submitted
that the subject matter of all claims 7-13 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the
subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of
the remaining claims.

The Patent Office asserts that claims 7-13 are directed to a final product whereas
claims 1-6 and 14-20 are directed to an intermediate product. However, Applicants submit
this is not the case in that (1) all the claims are method claims (and thus not intermediate and
final product claims) and (2) even if the claims were directed to intermediate and final

products, by election of method claims directed to a final product, a search of a method directed to a final product will require a search of steps to make the intermediate product.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/hs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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